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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1910.

Machine Politics.

"Party ties never were so loose as they
are at the present time. Ninety per cent
of the people of America are believing the
same things and thinking along the same
lines. They're down on boss rule, on
machine politics, on machine conditions,
on extravagance. While I regret the
things that have been done, you can't
convince me that the heart of the Ameri-
can people isn't all right—that there are
not mere surface indications. When the
American people come down the street
they tramp on big toes in the same way
they tramp on little toes, regardless of
the man who wears them. God and the
American people are no respecters of
persons."—Gov. Marshall, of Indiana.

These are not mere words. They are
facts.

It is the most hopeful sign of the times
that party ties are so loose that people
are doing their own thinking, and that
there is growing intolerance of boss
rule and machine politics. An independ-
ent spirit is manifest throughout the
land.

It will be well for our Democratic
friends, now about to celebrate Jefferson's
birthday, to bear in mind these truths
uttered by Gov. Marshall. Something
more than a name is required to win the
independent thinking voters. The Demo-
cratic party is not suddenly become
strong. It looms strong only because the
Republican party, torn with factionalism
and out of touch with the masses, is sud-
denly—perhaps only temporarily—become
weak.

When Mr. Foss was elected to Congress
by the Fourteenth Massachusetts district,
it did not indicate returning confidence
in the Democratic party. It was simply
a rebuke of the party in power—an inde-
pendent rebuke that had no partisan
meaning. Mr. Foss, as a matter of fact,
is no more of a Democrat than Rever-
idge, or Cummins, or La Follette, on the
issue uppermost to-day.

The Democratic party has opportunity
to win many recruits from the independent
ranks in November, but it must represent
something more than anti-Republicanism.
It must represent real opposition founded
upon principles, and show a disposition
to adhere to those principles, which it has
seldom done in the past. Its record on
the tariff, everybody knows, is but little
better than that of the party in power.

Gov. Marshall is alert to the party's
need in his own State. In calling upon it
to name a candidate for United States
Senator. He holds, and properly, that
the voters of the State have a right to
know who they are voting for—who the
party stands for. He applies to Indiana,
the sentiment existing generally.

Meanwhile, as we have observed before,
the efforts of machine politicians like
Mack and Murphy to shape the destinies
of the Democratic party are farcical. It
is a situation that demands statesman-
ship—not machine politics or machine
politics.

A Worried Contemporary.

After a vain search for an answer to the
questions, "Why is a Democrat?" and
"Is there a man-eating shark?" the New
York Sun has another riddle, which it
propounds to the extent of a half-col-
umn editorial. The Sun gives the caption
of "Why House Guests?" to its latest
efforts to enlighten mankind on subjects
psychological, physiological, political,
scientific, and jurisprudential.

The Sun writer starts off as follows:
"For long years we have entertained a
vulgar bantering to know exactly what
'house guest' means. We use the phrase
freely distributed in those hazy columns
which chronicle the movements, the
functions, and the relaxations of the
rich and powerful. We perceive that
Mrs. Jones is the house guest of Mrs.
Smith, and have grown giddy wondering
at the luxurious and mysterious con-
junction."

In older times, and not so very long
ago either, Mrs. Jones might have been
the guest of Mrs. Smith without exciting
honest bystanders in the least. Hostil-
ity is as ancient as the hills. As a
matter of fact, from Maine to the Gulf
of Mexico there has been constant visit-
ing, with opulent entertainment, and
never any word save that of hosts or
guests. Everybody knew what that
meant. The record, if anybody kept it,
was as clear as day.

"But what is the real meaning of
'house guest'?" is a 'house guest' differ-
ent from any other guest? Do people now-
days entertain some of their visitors in
the house and others in the stables, or the
comer, or the hayrack, or, if they do
not, and if all guests are treated on
the same plane, why the bewildering
prefix 'house'? We see this phrase printed
so frequently, and it is so borne in upon
us as a problem, that our rapidly atten-
uated patience prompts us to demand an
explanation."

The New York Sun certainly needs en-
lightenment. Its patience has been
something marvelous, and for a long
time we have been wondering when it
would break forth on this topic. In
villages where fashions change slowly,
the words "house guest" are gradually be-
coming acclimated, but in cities like
Washington and Philadelphia the term
has become one of accepted meaning,
and we bespeak for New York a similar
acquaintance within a reasonable length
of time. We would advise New Yorkers
to keep in closer touch with national

affairs by reading the Boston or Brook-
lyn papers, or even those of Washing-
ton, for thus the average New Yorker
could gain much information, not only on
the meaning of "house guest," but on
various other subjects, both timely and
important.

District Arrears of Taxes.

The criticism which has been made of
the manner in which the District Com-
missioners handle the sale of property
which is in arrears for taxes is by no
means deserved. The custom was estab-
lished some time ago of giving those
persons whose property was about to
be offered for sale due notice, in order
that they might pay their arrears. In fact,
every opportunity is given the property
holder to square his account with the
District. Not only are notices mailed,
but when addresses are lacking an ad-
vertisement is inserted in the local news-
papers, so that no stone is left un-
turned. The result is that no property
is offered for sale unless the owner de-
clines to take advantage of the notifica-
tion which is sent out.

It is a mistake, also, to assert that real
estate dealers are in the habit of fre-
quently these sales to acquire choice
pieces of property. The fact is that in
nearly every instance the property offered
is of little value, and no real estate
dealer who engages in a live and profit-
able business would waste his time in
handling the real estate upon which
taxes are delinquent. There are men
who make a business of buying in this
character of property, but they are prin-
cipally nonresidents, and Washington is
only one of many cities in which they
operate.

The trouble is that well-meaning orators
in some of the citizens' associations
speak without actual knowledge of the
facts, and make assertions which would
never be uttered if investigation had
preceded them. Extravagant and sensa-
tional statements do not help in securing
reforms in municipal government.

"Uncle Joe" Defiant.

Speaker Cannon has not lost anything
of his contempt for the insurgent Repub-
licans. He notified them in his speech
of Monday that they would have to unite
with the Democrats if they wanted to
oust him as Speaker of the House. White
with anger, he declared he would
remain Speaker until March 4 next, un-
less the insurgents had the courage to
join with the Democrats. His threat
seemed to have a disquieting effect. By
this means he would frighten the insur-
gents into a recognition of his position
or drive them into the Democratic camp.
If the fight is to be made, your "Uncle
Joe" will force it. Cannonism may have
been scotched when the Committee on
Rules was elected, but Cannon is still
in the ring. He has thrown down the
gauntlet, and if the twenty-six Repub-
licans who believed a change in the
method of selecting a Committee on
Rules meant a blow to Cannonism believe
as firmly that Cannon is the head devil,
he advises them to register their fate by
joining with the Democrats.

Nothing more sensational has occurred
in the House this session. The minor
question of whether the Speaker was to
have an automobile was not hidden in
the threat. The Speaker showed that he
was personally not interested in whether
he is to be given an automobile or not.
He could very well afford to pay for one.
But the question whether the Speaker
is as great as the Vice President was
involved. And far above this was the
question whether the insurgents would
unite with the Democrats to depose
him as Speaker of the House.

"Uncle Joe" recognizes in the action of
the insurgents a plan to discredit the
action of Congress on the tariff. He de-
fended the Payne-Aldrich bill. He
showed that it had brought an increase
of \$50,000,000 already.

Not only has "Uncle Joe" declared his
abiding faith in the tariff, but he in-
cluded in his customary tirade of the
press, which he said, misrepresented the
facts. By next November this misrepresen-
tation is expected to turn the tide
in the election to the Democrats. But,
added "Uncle Joe," an intelligent citizen-
ship will decide otherwise.

President Taft may stand by the party
and the insurgents, but the Speaker de-
fends the insurgents and stands by the rock-
ribbed Republicans.

"I am not saying a word, because I
want to keep out of trouble," says Min-
ister to China Calhoun. That is the surest
way anybody knows.

Says T. R. to Giff, says he—now wouldn't
you like to know?

It must jar Maj. Hemphill, also, to
catch an occasional glimpse of the Rich-
mond Times-Dispatch's Sunday "comic"
supplement.

"Cheer up! There are statesmen who
have had their manuscripts declined by
the Congressional Record," advises Col.
Frank L. Stanton, in the Atlanta Con-
stitution. There is, apparently, no limit to
the optimism of these sunshine poets.

If you want to queer the conversation
utterly, "butt in" with something about
the north pole.

A French count, a candidate for office,
has hired a substitute to kiss the babies
and shake the hands of the peasants in
his stead. That man could not be elected
justice of the peace in the Squeedunk
deed-trick in this country!

Etiquette forbidding, King Edward will
not entertain Mr. Roosevelt while the
latter is in England. It is a 40-to-1 shot
that T. R. will keep his most august
majesty entertained more or less, never-
theless.

Mr. Henry Watterson is never advised
to tell his troubles to a policeman. Mr.
Watterson makes even that story highly
interesting to the world at large.

A Pittsburg minister has set aside a
day for special prayers against grafting.
It is generally conceded, it appears, that
amazing grace alone can save Pittsburg.

Some people flatly refuse to accept the
suggestion that "sufficient unto the day
is the evil thereof." One of Mr. Taft's
Cabinet ministers already is handing out
second term talk.

"Tis the voice of the farmer, I hear
him complain: The weather department
is stingy with rain," sings a Kansas
bard in the Emporia Gazette. But wait!

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

THE FLAREBACK.

Right along the springtime hums,
Gay and bright.
Then a nasty flareback comes
Over night.

All the buds are nipped by frost
To the core,
And the peach crop promptly lost
As of yore.

All the daffodils turn blue
In the park,
And the skies assume a hue
Coldly dark.

For our furs we wildly run,
To them cling,
Ah, a flareback is no fun
In the spring.

Handed Down.

"So your father was a humorist, too?"
"He was."

"I suppose you inherited some of his
wit?"
"Yes; and all of his jokes."

A Dice Threat.

"Unless you take better care of your-
self, you may go blind."

"Well, I've seen everything, doc."

"But you may also go deaf, and then
you can't hear yourself talk."

That Backbone.

Winter is departing fast,
In decline;
But we haven't seen the last
Of its spine.

Tender Concessions.

"In a true love affair concessions must
be made on both sides."

"That is what the duke says. He has
offered to give up bacchari if I had
will part with another million."

Making Garden.

I planted beets expecting peas to
blossom there some day. The hu-
morists would have you believe that
things turn out that way. But where I
planted beets so far no early peas have
grown. I make no doubt that things
turn out some times as they are sown.

A Good Way.

"You accomplish a great many dis-
agreeable tasks."

"Yes."

"What is your system?"

"Well, it's this way. I always go at a
distasteful task as if I were paying an
election bet."

BEAUTIFUL WASHINGTON.

From the Washington Star.

The Washington Herald, even a stal-
wart champion of that important and
beautiful resort of Senators, Representa-
tives, and few other persons, rises to a
point of personal privilege and denies the
verity of the assertion made by Rev. Dr.
Guthrie at the Methodist Conference in
this city that the Capital is "wide open."

Getting down to brass tacks, the Herald
says:

"In common acceptance of the word,
mean a town or city wholly given over to
pleasures and indulgences, where laws and
regulations are disregarded, and where, in
the language of the street, 'everything goes.'"

Washington is no such city. It would require
the widest stretch of the imagination to bring it within
that category.

Dr. Guthrie characterized the Capital
city as "wide open and alive with Sab-
bath desecration" because its moving-
picture shows are open on Sunday, and
its theaters give "sacred concerts" which,
in the doctor's opinion, are not sacred.

The Herald admits the "bill of particulars,"
but finds therein no "sin-breeding
and demoralizing" influence. We are in-
clined to believe with the Herald that
Washington is "not going to the bad."

The Capital on Sunday presents quite as
decorous an appearance as Baltimore.
Washington is a delightful city, and the
whole country is, or should be, interested
in having it remain so. It could be
more moral, as could every other city on
the globe; but it is by no means im-
moral, and it is not desirable that any
false impression to that effect be per-
mitted to gain wide acceptance.

Experience in Congress.

From the New York Times.

In advising his Ohio friends to increase
the efficiency of their Representatives in
Congress by picking out good men to
start with, and then sending them to
Washington year after year. President
Taft put his big finger on the cause of
many of our political troubles and of-
fered the right remedy for them.

It is only by following the opposite and
absurd policy of "rotation in office," so
dear to the bargaining boss and spoils-
man, that something of obliquity or odium
has come to attach to the word "office-
holder." It is a pity, not that office-
holding is in this country a profession,
but that it is not one—that too often it
is a mere incident to office-getting and
salary drawing by men whose real busi-
ness in life is the exercise of political
power for ends, honest or dishonest, that
have nothing to do with the performance
of official service and duty.

He who takes office without training
or experience, who holds it by a fragile
and impermanent tenure, and who always
has his mind fixed on the getting of an-
other place as soon as he is turned out
of the one he occupies, may draw public
pay all his days, but he remains through-
out his whole career an amateur, not a
professional office-holder. And the am-
ateur in office, like the amateur every-
where, almost never attains to highest
efficiency.

Improve the City.

Charles Dickens.

Oh, if those who rule the destinies of
nations would but remember this—if they
would but think how hard it is for the
very poor to have engendered in their
hearts that love of home from which
all domestic virtues spring, when they
live in dense and squalid masses where
social decency is lost, or rather never
found—if they would but turn aside from
the wide thoroughfares and great houses,
and strive to improve the wretched dwell-
ings in byways, where only poverty may
walk—many low roofs would point more
truly to the sky than the loftiest steeple
that now rears proudly up from the midst
of guilt, and crime, and horrible disease,
to mock them by its contrast.

Of Course!

Seldom Feeds (musingly)—Lemmo sees
what's dat old sayin' about half a loaf?

"Half a loaf is better"—better dan
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Solled Spooner—Better dan a steady
job, of course.

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Daniel had been cast into the lion's
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CAPITOL GOSSIP.

Senator La Follette usually is prosy in
debate, dealing with facts and figures,
but during his discussion yesterday of
the railroad bill he lightened up the pro-
cedure with a little humor. He dealt
with the merger question, which had
occupied the politicians of Massachusetts
for years, and told of an entertainment
given to the railroad committee of the
Massachusetts legislature by the New
Haven Railroad.

"The railroad was very thoughtful of
the railroad committee," said the Sen-
ator, "and, as an example, I might
mention the visit of the committee to
Council Grove farm, as reported in a
Massachusetts paper: 'Through the in-
tercession of President Allan T. Tread-
well, of the senate, the lawmakers were
invited to look over Mr. Melville's great
estate. They inspected the lakes, the
woods, the prize swans, peacocks, ducks,
pheasants, and fancy fowls of all kinds,
many of which are worth \$500 apiece.
Most of the solons had never before seen
such high-priced birds, and just a sight
of them was a rare treat. Twenty crates
of birds and animals were added to the
menagerie on Saturday afternoon. One
of the representatives said after the in-
specting trip: 'The menagerie, street railways,
railroads and politics were not mentioned
during the visit at Council Grove.' The
party was later entertained at the home
of Representative Frank Curtis. All had
a chance to sample the homestead's hos-
pitality. An old-fashioned New England
luncheon was served. On the menu were
home-made cheese, doughnuts, sand-
wiches, milk, and honey."

"I am glad that I have at last found a
place where I can eat a good meal and
not be expected to tip the waiter." This
remark was made by one of the New
England school-teachers who visited the
Capitol recently. She had just left the
Senate cafe with a party of friends. Tips
are not allowed in the cafe, and the con-
solation derived from the fact was evi-
dent on the faces of the visitors. "When
I go into a restaurant at home there is
that mystic sign of the waiter's hand
over before me," she continued. "I can
hardly enjoy my meal for thinking of
what I shall tip the waiter and not be
considered a cheap skate. Here I have
had just a lovely lunch, everything
served in style,